

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 18 APRIL 1990 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TRANSMITTING THE MEMORANDUM ON THE EUROPEAN SECURITY COMMISSION PRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA 6 APRIL 1990

I have the honour to enclose herewith the Memorandum on the European Security Commission presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Czechoslovakia Mr. Jirí Dienstbier in Prague 6 April 1990.

I would kindly request you to circulate this Memorandum as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed):

Juraj Králik

Ambassador

Head of the Czechoslovak delegation
to the Conference on Disarmament

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MEMORANDUM ON THE EUROPEAN SECURITY COMMISSION

**PRESENTED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRES
IN PRAGUE 6 APRIL 1990**

Political developments in the world, particularly, in Europe are unfolding with such speed that the existing institutions are no longer in step with them. After years of confrontation Europe finds itself at the start of a new stage. This gives rise to new possibilities but also to certain risks.

The security structure of the continent stemming from the post-war realities is still based on the principle of a balance of forces between the two blocs. Its foundations, however, are not solid because they rest on artificial dividing lines. The division of Europe in two parts, as well as the division of Germany in two States has outlived itself.

The sources of potential European conflicts are more heterogeneous than has until now been envisaged by the bipolar confrontational system. From this follows the necessity of conceiving European security more broadly and of including in it, in addition to political and military, also economic, environmental and humanitarian aspects as well as the possibility of other threats. Such security, however, cannot be safeguarded by the existing confrontational security system, but only by a new European-wide structure of peace, stability and confidence. The profound political changes in Central and Eastern Europe add to the urgency of the need of such a modern structure.

The Warsaw Treaty and NATO operate today in different conditions than those in which they came into being. These organizations which until now have divided Europe should shift the focus of their activity primarily to the field of disarmament. We assume that further development will enhance their political role and will gradually tone down their military role. This process, at the same time, will not have to proceed symmetrically, since, in many aspects of their activities, the two groupings are not identical.

We believe that the best suitable basis on which to build a unified all-European security system is provided by the CSCE process to be heading with greater momentum in the direction of a second generation of Helsinki understandings. These should create the prerequisites for the gradual establishment of a common system of European security. The attainment of this goal calls for institutionalizing our joint efforts within CSCE and creating effective mechanisms of a new type.

A longer-term outlook of building a modern security system calls for making full use of the experience of the existing institutions of multilateral cooperation, such as the Council of Europe and others, which should gradually become European-wide.

Seeking new possible approaches, we proceed from the positive lessons learned so far in the CSCE process, as well as from the need to respond to the development in Germany and to the profound social changes in Central and Eastern Europe.

In keeping with purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Czechoslovakia proposes, in the first stage, the establishment of a European Security Commission comprised of the participating States of the Helsinki process. Its justification is seen by us in the fact that it would provide an until now missing permanent all-European platform for the consideration of questions relating to security on the continent, and for seeking their solution. This European Security Commission would operate side by side with the existing two groupings and independently of them.

The formation of an effective system of European security would in the second stage be facilitated by the establishment, on a treaty basis, of an Organization of European States, including the United States and Canada.

The third stage would culminate in a confederated Europe of free and independent States.

The European Security Commission would operate on the basis of consensus. It would initially fulfil consultative, co-ordinating and certain verification functions and, later on, such functions as would be agreed by the participating States. This would include, in particular, the following tasks:

- Considering international political correlations of European security and proposing the adoption of appropriate measures;
- Forestalling threats to European peace and security, the rise of exacerbated situations, disputes, military incidents and conflicts and recommending as well as offering means of their settlement (good offices, mediation, fact finding, conciliation, etc.);
- Dealing with questions of threats to, and violations of, security that are due to economic, ecological and humanitarian causes and assume large proportions and have international implications;
- Creating a scope for direct contacts and negotiations of the two groupings and their members, attended, if need be, also by the European neutral and non-aligned countries;

- Commenting on the conduct of negotiations by the European disarmament and security forums and proposing their further orientation;
- Considering the possibilities of expanding the agenda of the existing disarmament forums and the establishment of new ones;
- Considering reports by verification and consultation centre on compliance with European arms control and security agreements;
- Informing each other on doctrinal, structural, organizational and budgetary changes relating to the armed forces of the participating States and on the introduction of new weapon systems by them;
- Informing the United Nations as well as regional organizations on the results achieved in the sphere of European disarmament and security.

The Commission would meet at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and their Permanent Representatives. Regular sessions at the level of Ministers would be held at least once a year. Extraordinary sessions could be convened at the request of participating States.

Sessions of Permanent Representatives would be held once a month or more frequently if so requested by a participating State.

Subordinated to the Commission would be a Military Committee composed of military representatives of the CSCE participating States. It would be meeting at least once a year and would deal with questions specified by the Commission. For the purpose of the implementation of its tasks the Commission may establish auxiliary bodies. The necessary technical services for the Commission would be secured by a not very sizable, operative, permanent Secretariat.

Czechoslovakia offers Prague as the permanent seat of the Commission. At the request of the participating States the Commission could also meet elsewhere.

The forthcoming Summit of the 35 participating countries, which will consider important questions of the further development of security and cooperation in Europe, could adopt a decision on creating organizational prerequisites for the establishment of the European Security Commission as a nucleus of a new security structure on the continent.

Czechoslovakia, for historical, political-strategic and other reasons, has an eminent interest in the creation of such a structure. While drafting our proposal, we took into account the suggestions which have so far been submitted by the other CSCE participating countries and which came close to our concept of European security. This proposal is open to discussion.

The dynamic development on the continent creates conditions for various approaches to the shaping of all-European structures and their appropriate mechanisms. However, the goal should be to create a new, sufficiently flexible and future-oriented model of European security.

Such development should be in the interest of not only Europe but of the whole world.

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Prague, 6 April 1990